

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00419 241541Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----119405 241544Z /46

O R 241503Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6547  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T BEIRUT 0419

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS FROM PARKER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PLO, LE, SY, IS  
SUBJECT: THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 1018

1. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS' CONCERNS REFTEL, I WILL NOT REPEAT NOT INITIATE ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH BOUTROS OR SARKIS CONCERNING POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTIONS BY GOL IN SOUTH LEBANON UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION DURING CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. AS A BACKGROUND FOR THIS DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. WHILE WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON, I DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD PUT OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF SUPPORTING AN ISRAELI RIGHT TO VETO ACTIONS

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00419 241541Z

OF THIS SORT BY THE GOL WITHIN THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF LEBANON. THE ISRAELIS ASSERTED SUCH A RIGHT WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTARUA III, AND WE ACQUIESCED BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS NEED FOR COORDINATION. THAT NEED IS LESS CLEAR IN THIS CASE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN EARLY ISRAELI ASSERTIONS THEY WOULD WELCOME THE RETURN OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO THE AREA.

WHAT WE PROPOSED IN BEIRUT 0368 WAS AN INDEPENDENT ACTION BY THE GOL WHICH HAS NO CONNECTION WITH EITHER THE CAIRO OR SHTAURA AGREEMENTS. IF THE GOL CAN WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH MAJOR HADDAD AND THE INTERESTED CHRISTIAN PARTIES IN BEIRUT TO REESTABLISH GOL CONTROL IN MARJAYUN (OR ANYWHERE ELSE WITHIN LEBANON), I DO NOT REPEAT NOT THINK THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE. IF OUR CONSTANTLY REITERATED SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON MEANS ANYTHING, IT SHOULD MEAN THAT WE BELIEVE THE GOL HAS THE RIGHT TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY WITHIN ITS OWN TERRITORY. AS A MATTER OF PRUDENCE, I WOULD CERTAINLY ADVISE THE LEBANESE TO TELL THE ISRAELIS IN ADVANCE WHAT THEY WERE PLANNING TO DO, AND WOULD EXPECT THEM TO DO SO, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR US TO TELL THE LEBANESE THAT THEY HAVE TO CLEAR SUCH PROPOSALS IN ADVANCE WITH ISRAEL, IMPLYING THAT WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY GOL ACTION UNLESS THE ISRAELIS AGREED.  
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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